

October 23, 1962

51

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of October 24, and I regret very much that you still do not appear to understand what it is that has moved us in this matter.

The sequence of events is clear. In August there were reports of important shipments of military equipment and technicians from the Soviet Union to Cuba. In early September I indicated very plainly that the United States would regard any shipment of offensive weapons as presenting the gravest issues. After that time, this Government received the most explicit assurances from your Government and its representatives, both publicly and privately, that no offensive weapons were being sent to Cuba. If you will review the statement issued by Taes in September, you will see how clearly this assurance was given.

In reliance on these solemn assurances I urged restraint upon those in this country who were urging action in this matter at that time. And then I learned beyond doubt what you have not denied -- namely, that all these public assurances were false and that your military people had set out recently to establish a set of missile bases in Cuba. I ask you to recognize clearly, Mr. Chairman, that it was not I who issued the first challenge in this case, and that in the light of this record these activities in Cuba required the responses I have announced.

I repeat my regret that these events should cause a deterioration in our relations. I hope that your Government will take the necessary action to permit a restoration of the earlier situation.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Kennedy

N. S. Khrushchev  
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
Moscow, USSR

**FORWARDED COPY FOLLOWS**

## OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

198

1-2901

 CHARGE TO COLLECT

41

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EYES ONLY

ACTION: Amembassy MOSCOW      NIACT 997  
 SS  
 Ref: Embtel 1070

OCT 25 1962

EYES ONLY

021

Signed original following message from President to

Khrushchev delivered to ~~XXX~~ Soviet Embassy 1:45 a.m.  
October 25Washington time. Please deliver to highest ranking ~~XXX~~ Soviet  
official immediately available.

October 25, 1962

QUOTE Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of October 24, and I regret  
very much that you still do not appear to understand what it  
is that has moved us in this matter.

The sequence of events is clear. In August there were  
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DATE: OCT 25 1962  
 ( ) DECLASSIFY IN PART  
 ( ) DECLASSIFY ON ( ) OR ( ) C, OADR  
 ( ) Non-Responsive Info.  
 ( ) FOIA or PA exemption(s):  
 ( ) CLASSIFY AS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) EXCISE  
 ( ) DOWNGRADE TO ( ) OR ( ) C, OADR  
 ( ) DEITY

TO Authority to:

Drafted by:

White House

Telegraphic transmission and  
classification approved by:

S/S - Mr. Johnson

Comments:

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Government and its representatives, both publicly and privately, that no offensive weapons were being sent to Cuba. If you will <sup>see</sup> review the statement issued by Tass in September, you will ~~see~~ how clearly this assurance was given.

In reliance on these ~~XXX~~ solemn assurances I urged restraint upon those in this country who were urging action in this matter at that time. And then I learned beyond doubt what you have not denied -- namely, that all these public ~~XXXX~~ assurances were false and that your military people had set out recently to establish a set of ~~XXX~~ missile ~~XX~~ bases in Cuba. I ask you to recognize clearly, Mr. Chairman, that it was not I who issued the first ~~XXXXXX~~ challenge in this case, and that in the light of this record these activities in Cuba required the responses I have announced.

I repeat my regret that these ~~XXXX~~ events should cause a deterioration in our relations. I hope that your Government will take the necessary action to permit a restoration of the earlier situation.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN F. KENNEDY UNQUOTE

Please report time delivery.

Note: Relayed: Sec. McNamara-Defense, Chairman JCS, CIA,  
Treasury and Justice Reps. 10/25/62 per SS

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RUSK